

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:
 - a light source;
 - a light guide plate for introducing light emitted from the light source from an incidence surface provided on an end and emitting the light from an emission surface of the light guide plate;
 - a diffusive reflector disposed to face a second surface of the light guide plate opposite to the emission surface of the light guide plate; and
 - an air space or adhesion layer disposed between the light guide plate and the diffusive reflector, wherein the diffusive reflector is provided such that a minute concavo-convex portion having a light reflection property is formed on a surface of a base thereof and that the surface having the minute concavo-convex portion faces the second surface opposite to the emission surface of the light guide plate.
2. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1,
 - wherein a light directivity control sheet, in which a plurality of pyramid-shaped objects is formed on a base, is provided on the first surface of the light guide plate such that apexes of the pyramid-shaped objects face an opposite side to the light guide plate, and
 - wherein the light directivity control sheet controls directivity of transmissive light components of at least two other directions of the light components that are emitted from the first surface of the light guide plate and pass through the light directivity control sheet.
3. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 2,
 - wherein a light diffusive sheet is provided on a surface of the light directivity control sheet where a plurality of pyramid-shaped objects is formed.

4. (Original) The backlight unit according to claim 2,
wherein a minute concavo-convex portion having light diffusion property is formed on a surface of the light directivity control sheet opposite to the light guide plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1,
wherein a thickness of a side far from the light source in the light guide plate is smaller than a thickness of a side close to the light source.

6. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1,
wherein the light source comprises an intermediate light guide object provided along the end of the light guide plate and a point light source provided along a longitudinal end of the intermediate light guide object.

7. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising the backlight unit according to claim 1 and a liquid crystal display unit illuminated by the backlight unit from a rear side.

8. (New) A backlight unit, comprising:
a light source;
a light guide plate emitting light from the light source from an emission surface of the light guide plate;
a diffusive reflector disposed to face a second surface of the light guide plate opposite to the emission surface, the diffusive reflector comprising a plurality of light diffusing concavo-convex portions.

9. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 8, further comprising an air space or adhesion layer disposed between the light guide plate and the diffusive reflector.

10. (New) The backlight unit of claim 8, further comprising a light directivity control sheet comprising a plurality of pyramid-shaped objects disposed on a base thereof, the plurality of pyramid-shaped objects facing away from the light guide plate;
and

wherein the light directivity control sheet controls directivity of transmissive light components of at least two other directions of the light components that are emitted

from the emission surface of the light guide plate and that pass through the light directivity control sheet.

11. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of pyramid-shaped objects comprise discontinuously spaced apex portions directed away from the light guide plate.

12. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 10, wherein the pyramid shaped objects are shaped in the form of a member selected from the group consisting of quadrangular pyramid, hexangular pyramid, octangular pyramid, cone and elliptic cone.

13. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 10, further comprising a light diffusive sheet disposed over the light directivity control sheet.

14. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 13, wherein the light diffusive sheet comprises concavo-convex portions diffusing light emitted from the emission surface of the light guide plate.

15. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 10, wherein the light diffusing concavo-convex portions are disposed on a surface of the light directivity control sheet facing the light guide plate.

16. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 8, further comprising a first prism sheet and a second prism sheet disposed over the emission surface of the light guide plate, wherein a cross section of each prism sheet comprises triangular shaped protrusions separated by wedge shaped grooves.

17. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 16, wherein the first prism sheet and the second prism sheet are arranged so that edge lines corresponding to the triangular shaped protrusions in a first prism sheet are perpendicular to edge lines corresponding to the triangular shaped protrusions in a second prism sheet.

18. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 8,
wherein a thickness of the light guide plate decreases with increasing distance from the light source.

19. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 8,
wherein the light source comprises an intermediate light guide object
provided along the end of the light guide plate and a point light source provided along a
longitudinal end of the intermediate light guide object.

20. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising the backlight unit according
to claim 8, wherein the liquid crystal display unit is illuminated by the backlight unit from
a rear side.